

characters as the form of the palate-ridges and the number of the manimæ, have remained quite unaffected during all the changes that the rest of the animal has undergone.

A parallel case, but one in which the differences between the two are by no means so strongly marked, is that of the rare Floridan *Neofiber*<sup>1</sup>, in its relationship to the common and widely-spread North-American *Fiber*.

But the question next arises as to which of the Murines *Xeromys* itself is most allied; but here the very high specialization of its teeth presents the same difficulty as in the case of *Hydromys*, so that in this respect the discovery of *Xeromys* hardly helps us at all. The slight differences between the teeth of the two genera prove that the almost continuous walls round the lobes of the molars of *Hydromys* were formerly cusps, as in other Murines; but although this leads directly towards *Mus*, it leads equally directly towards nearly all the other members of the family. In fact one cannot say with absolute certainty that the teeth are more nearly allied to those of *Mus* than to those of *Uromys*, *Hapalotis*, *Gerbillus*, or even *Cricetus* itself; and we must therefore be content to wait in the hope that more of the missing links, either fossil or recent, may yet turn up, and that then a more enlightened study of larger material may tend to elucidate this most interesting question. In any case we must be thankful that by the preservation of the apparently common-looking little *Xeromys myoides*, so important an advance in our knowledge of the ancestry of *Hydromys* has been made practicable.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXIX.

- Figs. 1-4. Skull of *Xeromys myoides*.  
 5. Palate-ridges of ditto.  
 6. Anterior zygoma-root of ditto.  
 7. Anterior zygoma-root of *Hydromys chrysoaster*.  
 8, 9. Ear and right hind foot of *Xeromys myoides*.  
 10-12. Left upper and lower molars of ditto.

#### 2. On a new Tree Trap-door Spider from Brazil.

By the Rev. O. P. CAMBRIDGE, M.A., F.R.S., C.M.Z.S., &c.

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Class ARACHNIDA.

Order ARANEIDEA.

Fam. THERAPHOSIDÆ.

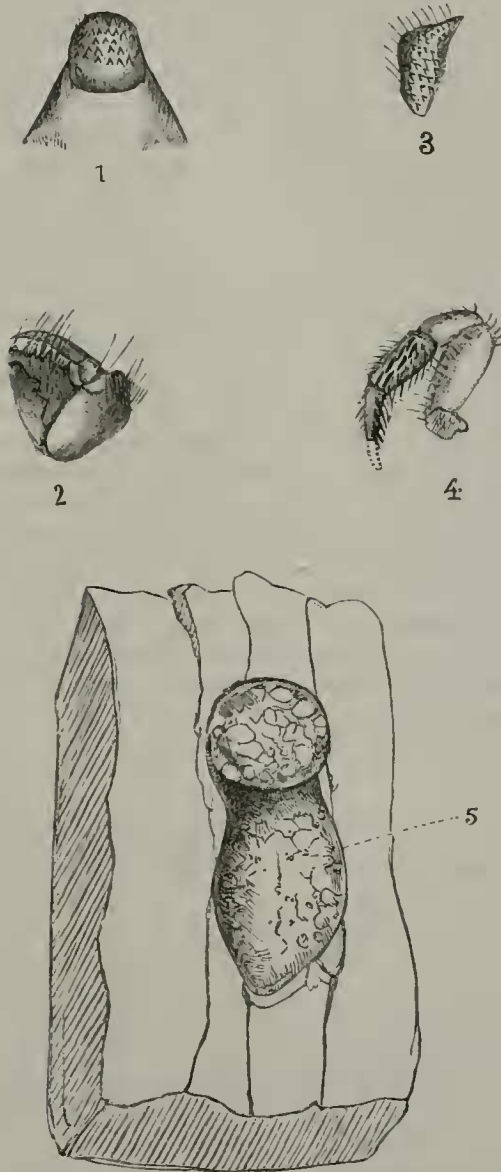
Gen. nov. DENDRICON.

DENDRICON RASTRATUM, sp. n.

This genus is evidently nearly allied to *Moggridgea*, Cambr., but the presence on the palces of a strong rake-like group of spines near the base of the fang, and a difference in the form of the maxillæ and labium, lead me to conclude that it is certainly distinct from that

<sup>1</sup> See True, P. U. S. Nat. Mus. vii. p. 170 (1884).

genus. The *labium* is longer than broad, somewhat narrower at the apex than at the base; the apex is rather rounded, and there are



Structure of *Dendricon rastratum*.

- Fig. 1. Labium and portion of sternum, enlarged.  
 2. Portion of one of the falces, enlarged.  
 3. Portion of one of the maxillæ, enlarged.  
 4. Leg of 1st or 2nd pair, enlarged.  
 5. Nest in bark, natural size.

numerous small denticulations on the upper half. The *maxillæ* are also covered with similar denticulations.

The *falces* are massive, with some sharp teeth opposed to the strong, curved fang, and a compact group of spines at their extremity, in front, on the upperside near the articulation of the fang.

The *legs* are short, very strong, and armed with spines on the tibiæ and metatarsi of the two anterior pairs. The colour of the above parts is yellow-brown to rich reddish brown.

The nest consists of a short tube, covered with minute fragments of bark and lichens, and almost concealed in the interstices of the bark of a tree; at the upper end is a nearly circular, hinged wafer-lid, similarly concealed by lichens and bits of bark.

Two specimens of this nest, and the Spiders in them, were very recently forwarded to me by post by Mr. Frederick Tayler, of Rainhill, Lancashire; but unfortunately the Spiders and the bark in which the nests were placed were completely crushed and almost comminuted in the postal transit, so that no part of the Spiders could be distinguished excepting the fragments from which the figures annexed were drawn. These fragments, however, show that the Spider is nearly allied to *Moggridgea*, Cambr., but distinct. I have therefore thought that a new genus might be based upon them, and that thus the attention of collectors being drawn to the fact of there being a Tree Trap-door Spider inhabiting Brazil, more examples might be obtained, and further details of the Spider's size, form, and position of the eyes ascertained. The only hitherto known Trap-door Spiders inhabiting trees have been found in South Africa.

The Spiders and nests now described were received by Mr. Tayler from Mr. Dukinfield Jones, C.E., by whom they were found in the Organ Mountains, Brazil.

### 3. Some Notes upon the Anatomy of the American Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*). By FRANK E. BEDDARD, M.A., Prosecutor to the Society.

[Received May 6, 1889.]

Having dissected two specimens of the American Tapir, I have been able to supplement in some particulars the accounts given by Owen (6), Yarrell (9), Eudes-Deslongchamps (3), Mayer (11), and Turner (8) of the anatomy of this animal. My notes principally refer to a young Tapir which died in the Society's Gardens on February 13th of the present year, having lived in the Gardens for only two months.

The animal measured 41 inches from the tip of the snout to the root of the tail (the measurement being taken along the curves of the back). The height at the shoulder was 22 inches.

The animal showed the white bands which characterize the young.

#### *Alimentary Tract.*

The hard palate was furnished with 15 ridges and one incomplete ridge on either side which showed an alternate arrangement, the